

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Upon careful and complete consideration of the Office Action dated March 8, 2004, applicants have amended the specification and claims which, when considered in conjunction with the comments herein below, are deemed to place the present application into condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

The Office Action citing 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, identified several areas in the specification needing revision. The paragraphs found on pages 4, 7 and 11 identified by the Examiner have been amended accordingly. It is respectfully submitted that the remaining parts of the specification, although not grammatically perfect, are clear and concise such that the skilled artisan could easily understand what is being disclosed.

The Office Action proceeded to reject claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly not reasonably providing enablement for the process as generically claimed. Claim 4 has been deleted from the application making this rejection moot.

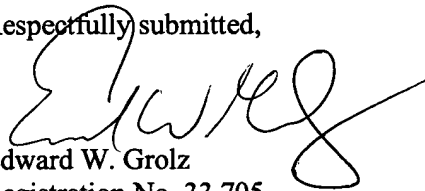
The Office Action next rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Office Action pointed out that each of the independent claims recite silicon carbide in the preamble yet none of the claims recite furnishing or producing silicon carbide. In response to this rejection, applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 12 to clearly indicate the making of the silicon-carbide. Based on the amendments made to the independent claims, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of said claims based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

The Office Action also went on to reject claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,024,898 to Steibel et al. As mentioned

above, claim 4 has been deleted. Said deletion of claim 4 renders this rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) moot and should therefore be withdrawn.

It is acknowledged that the Office Action indicated that claims 1 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections, as well as dependent claims 2, 3, 5-11 and 13-20. The amendments made above are believed to overcome said §112 rejections. Consequently, it is further submitted that all the claims in the application as presently submitted contain patentable subject matter and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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